

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMISSION STATEMENT ON  
RAISED BILL 848, AN ACT CONCERNING POLLING PLACES FOR  
PRIMARIES.**

**February 6, 2015**

The Freedom of Information Commission opposes the confidentiality provisions of RB 848, *An Act Concerning Polling Places for Primaries*. The proposed bill makes confidential a candidate's letter of objection provided to the Secretary of State, as required by RB 848, concerning a registrar of voters' change in a polling place or polling places. RB 848 also prohibits identification of the candidate in the Secretary of State's notice of objection provided to the registrars of voters. Under the proposed bill, a polling place cannot be changed if a candidate files such a letter of objection with the Secretary of State.

The FOI Commission questions the purpose of permitting a candidate for public office to remain anonymous in his or her opposition to a change in polling place where that opposition significantly affects the conduct of an election. Elections and primaries should be as open a process as possible. Wouldn't a candidate's position on changing a polling place be something the voting public has the right to know?

The FOI Commission believes that the confidentiality provisions of RB 848 compromise the democratic process, including the principles of open government, where there is no apparent need to do so. For these reasons, the Commission urges the rejection of the confidentiality provisions in RB 848.

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